1	2	3
32.	Tripura	6424.43
33.	Uttar Pradesh	30858.58
34.	Uttaranchal	30642.50
35.	West Bengal	1078.65
	TOTAL	279712.92

Glaciers of major rivers

1890. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna is melting very fast leading to unavailability of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The various scientific studies indicate that the glaciers of Himalaya including glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna are receding at varying rates in different regions. Accordingly, due to melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the runoff of the Himalayan rivers may initially increase marginally. Thereafter, there may be decrease in water availability.

(c) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. This Mission would seek to understand weather and the extent to which the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Protection of environment and forest

1891. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the news-items published in The Hindu dated 15 November, 2009 captioned "Discrepancies in information on mining leases to Karnataka Minister";

(b) whether Government is aware that the empowered committee on environment of the Supreme Court has found *Prima Facie* discrepancies with regard to violation of forest and environment policies;